Bridgewater June 28th 1854

My dear Sir;

I write to condole with you, for your heart must indeed be weighed down with sorrow and pain just now! So much disgrace heaped upon Boston, such a stain upon the Shield of Massachusetts! - Had hopes, I confess, that the Nebraska villainy would have roused the feelings of the North, at any rate of New England, too much to permit such a crowning disgrace to fall upon it. Burns is taken from Boston. - I never was a peace man myself, and I pray heartily that anything truly human may be done to prevent this sad triumph of the slave power. We ought to write from here to cheer you & to comfort you, but what can we say, when we see such accounts, and read such news from the place whence, if anywhere in the State, we looked for comfort? I never did think that the prospect could look so dark, & that is all my consolation, for the night is darkest before the Dawn. - I had hoped that the good seed sown by our pioneering Society, watered by the blood of Lovejoy and the tears of millions, & warmed by the sun that seemed to rise for you since the appearance of Uncle Tom's Cabin, I had hoped that there was

good in store for the slave; but, now that Congress has passed the Nebraska bill, and Boston has given up another fugitive, - now tell me honestly what hope can we Englishmen have from America for a long, long while to come? I feel quite downhearted & despondent. - I cannot think that we have labored without fruit, and it requires all my faith in God's justice to prevent my giving the whole thing up as useless. - I only wish I could be with you in the States to share your sufferings there. It seems so easy to talk here, and to write here, and to call upon you to sacrifice yourselves; that I do not like to say all I think to you: I have given poor Parker Pillsbury a dose ~~of this~~ in a letter this morning, & now more quietly sit down to write to you, and tell you that, defeated though you have been now, our sympathies are still with the true-hearted Abolitionists. - If the men who shouted their applause to Wendell Phillips & Theodore Parker had but adhered to their principles, this mischief would never have been done. You Americans talk indeed of our not being as free as you: you now and then sneer at Germany, & France, & Italy. Why the ~~truest~~ most degraded people of the Continent are ruled by Cameron,

& vowed before, were it not for the bayonets of their tyrants, & in this they are only like the citizens of Boston. Frenchmen, and Germans, and Italians have died upon the barricades for less than was done in your great stamp-hall of Freedom; and * your own streets, in the day when Americans knew that Liberty was worth having, have been blood flow for less than what was done when Burns was led from the Courthouse to Slavery. — I like to see a people show the deep feelings of their heart in deed better than in mere form. They should have prevented the rendition; — that would have been better than carrying coffins with nothing in them, appropriately labelled American Liberty! What shall you allow next?

But it is selfish in me to write thus to you, and to add to the sorrow, I know you feel; but can I lessen your pain? I can sympathize, but the great crushing fact is there, that even Boston cannot be sufficiently roused to save a fellowman from Slavery.

Hitherto I have said I care not what you write or whether you do write I know you are well employed, but now I do beg of you earnestly write to me and tell

me what are we to do here? What can we do to stop
You? Let me know that we are usefully employed, if
there American Tickings do almost crush me. To
my friends here I show a cheerful front and say
they tell us we are helping, & so I work, but when
I am speaking in the Committee to day, & urging
increased efforts, my conscience almost reproaches
me for dissimulation: I was trying to reason
myself into faith, & conduct. Do please tell me
if we are worth writing to, if it be only also to
say that we are of some use in the cause. -

I saw Mrs Follen last week in London: She
is as downhearted as possible, & then I tried to speak
hopefully, & so did Mrs Crabbe Robinson: but Beware
the deadly fact standing up against us. Pillsbury
writes me he is almost crazy with the American
News; & he only shows that he is what he ought to be,
We argue calmly & the contest is really not for
character. I cannot be, I should be ashamed to be,
I won't amend with.

They are going to have a conference in Manchester
on the 1st of August. - I hope we shall raise a cry there
that shall be heard through out the South, & through
the North too; - through the Deceived North; if they
but did their duty, all would be well, but

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is there any hope that we can cause you. — Let us know. Write to that meeting. Send something to cheer us & urge us on. —

We have our next working meeting here tomorrow week; if we do anything then I will report it to you. I intend to bring the necessity of more frequent public expressions of opinion before them. Perhaps we have been too quiet. I feel somehow as if writing to you would rather cheer me. I am sure you will sympathise with me, & I am clearing my heart of what oppresses it; but I long to hear what your plans are, what your expectations & your hopes.

Is the New York Inquirer really correct in saying that some Southern Senators will oppose by a clause in the Fishery treaty, extending the conditions of the Fugitive Slave Law to Canada. I dare scarcely think that this is true; that they may be successful. It will force our government to take part in the Slavery discussion for once. We have been unsuccessful in inducing Mr Hainaird to bring the case of Glasgow before Parliament again this session, and our unfortunate Parliamentary etiquette prevents anyone

else doing anything in a matter which is
now considered as Mr Kinnaird's private
affair. —

And now good bye let us hear from you
very soon & believe me
ever yours faithfully
Alfred Tennyson

Rev. J. M. Heygate.

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